

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-55 (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) A supply system for providing fastening elements to at least one press for installing the fastening elements, comprising:

a forwarding device for providing fastener elements from a stored quantity of fastener elements, a sorting device for orienting the fastener elements for use in the user and operably communicating with said forwarding device thereby receiving the fastener elements from said forwarding device, and a transport device operably communicating with said sorting device thereby receiving fastener elements from said sorting device, wherein said fastening elements having a predetermined orientation established by said sorting device are received by said transport device; and

wherein a plurality of interchangeable modules comprise said sorting device and said transport device and a [~~base~~] basic module comprise said forwarding device and said interchangeable module being connectable to said [~~base~~] basic module having said sorting device of each interchangeable module positioned to receive fastening elements from said forwarding device.

57. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 56, comprising baffle elements disposed in said sorting device for trapping fastener elements in said sorting device not correctly oriented for use in the [~~user~~] press.

58. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said transfer device is connectable to said [~~user~~] press with one of a hose or a rail.

59. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said basic module is configured to process different sizes and shapes of the fastening element.

60. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein each of said basic modules includes a supply chamber fillable with differently sized and shaped fastener elements.

61. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 60, wherein each of said basic modules include a plurality of supply chambers fillable with a single sized and shaped fastener element, each supply chamber being simultaneously operational.

62. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 61, wherein said forwarding device is configured to receive fastening elements from said plurality of supply chambers simultaneously.

63. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 61, wherein said forwarding device is configured to receive fastening elements from said plurality of supply chambers individually.

64. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said basic module includes a mobile installation platform enabling said basic module to be moved into and out of engagement with said system.

65. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 64, further including an electrical control cupboard secured to said mobile mounting platform.

66. (New) A supply system according to claim 65, wherein said electrical cupboard includes a mains connection.

67. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 65, wherein said electrical cupboard includes input and output units.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 65, further including a pneumatic supply secured to said mobile mounting platform and being cooperable with said supply device for driving the fastener elements through said system.

72. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 65, further including a safety device at least partially concealing said system and being secured to said mobile mounting platform.

73. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 65, further including a recognition device adapted to identify the fastening element being processed through said sorting device and said transport device and being operably connected to said electrical control cupboard.

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 65, wherein said electrical control cupboard includes connection lines for relaying signals between said supply system and the [user] press.

76. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 56, further including a pneumatic supply having at least one of a filter, ~~an oiler~~, a water separator, a valve, a power unit, and an oiling device for oiling the fastener elements and the basic module.

77. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, further including a safety device associated with said basic module and having at least one of acoustic insulation and screening means for preventing accesses to said forwarding device.

78. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 77, wherein said safety device comprises a cover having an on/off contact switch associated with said screen.

79. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said sorting device comprises at least one of a plurality of like sorting devices and different sorting devices.

80. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 79, wherein said plurality of like sorting devices cooperate with a conveyor device distributing like fastener elements to all said plurality of like sorting devices being operational and coupled to said basic module.

81. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 80, wherein said conveyor device distributes fastener elements to each of said plurality sorting devices.

82. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 79, wherein said transport device includes a plurality of different sorting devices corresponding to differently supplied fastener elements from one of a mixture present in a supply chamber and ~~separately~~ separate true-to-type different supply chambers.

83. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 82, wherein said basic module includes at least one emptying opening lying at a lowest point of said supply chamber and having walls converging to said emptying opening providing problem free emptying of a supply of the fastener elements and enabling a visual and optical check of an emptied state of said supply chamber.

84. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said interchangeable module is connectable with quick change couplings to said basic module or to at least one of the following functional units mounted on a mounting platform providing rapid mechanical connection of said interchangeable module to said basic module, a rapid electrical connection to said electrical control cabinet, [tø] a rapid pneumatic connection to a pneumatic system, and a rapid connection to an oiling system.

85. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, further including a transport carriage for transporting at least two of said interchangeable modules.

86. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 85, wherein a platform of said basic module and said transport carriage each include a rail means, whereby an interchangeable module located said basic module is shifted onto said rail means of said transport carriage, and an exchangeable module located on said rail means of said transport carriage is shifted onto said rail means of said basic module, and an latching device is provided for non-displaceably latching said interchangeable module located on said rail means of said basic module with said basic module.

87. (Currently Amended) A supply system according to claim 86, wherein said transport carriage is designed to receive at least two interchangeable modules which each have space on said rail means [and], wherein said rail means are located on one of a rotary table of said transport carriage or said transport carriage, ~~is aligned with corresponding wheels with said basic module at two positions displaced by 180°.~~

88. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, further including a lifting means, whereby said interchangeable module located on said basic module is liftable from said basic module and placeable onto a transport carriage, and said interchangeable module located on said transport carriage is liftable from said interchangeable carriage and placeable onto said basic module having an alignment device provided upon at least said basic module for non-displaceably placing said interchangeable module on said basic module or said transport carriage.

89. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 88, wherein said basic module includes a receiving bay for said interchangeable module and said transport carriage is movable at least partly into said receiving bay, and one of said basic module and said transport carriage is equipped with a lifting device for lifting and placement of said interchangeable module relative to said basic module with a guide means provided on said basic module adjacent said receiving bay for aligning said interchangeable module during placement.

90. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 89, wherein said transport carriage forms a unit together with said interchangeable module and is securable with said interchangeable module with wheels on said transport carriage, said transport carriage being raisable and lowerable for placing and lifting said interchangeable module.

91. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 90, wherein a single supply chamber is provided and said interchangeable module comprises a plurality of said sorting units and said transport units, which units are adapted to feed the same type and size of fastener element supplied by said forwarding device from a single supply chamber.

92. (Previously Presented) A supply system according to claim 56, wherein said sorting device and said transport device comprising said exchangeable module are each adapted for rapid connection together and to a platform to form said exchangeable module.

93. (Currently Amended) A method of operation of a user that receives elements from a supply system, wherein said supply system includes a forwarding device for delivery of the elements to the user, with said forwarding device supplying the elements from a supply quantity to a sorting device only permitting elements having a predetermined positioned path to pass and being equipped with a transport device for transporting positionally correctly sorted elements required by the user, comprising: [~~and~~] an interchangeable module having said sorting device and wherein said transport device is separated from a basic module including said forwarding device and is removed from an area of said basic module while a further interchangeable module is matched to a changed requirement of the user and coupling said forwarding device to said basic module with a quick change device for taking the user into operation.

94. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 93, further including the step of transporting said interchangeable module away from said basic module on a transport carriage, and wherein a plurality of said interchangeable modules are transported away from said basic module to said basic module on said transport carriage, and pushing said interchangeable modules on rails or roller means from said basic module onto said transport carriage and from said transport carriage into said basic module and latched together.

95. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 93, further including the step of transporting said interchangeable module to and away from said basic module on a transport carriage with said interchangeable module being removed from said basic module and being lifted from said basic module by a lifting device and placed onto said transport carriage and rotated by one of rotating said transport module and rotating a rotary table disposed upon said transport carriage.

96. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 93, further including the step of separating said interchangeable module located on said transport carriage from said basic module by lifting said interchangeable module relative to said transport carriage or by lifting a platform of said transport carriage with said interchangeable module by means of extendable wheels disposed upon said transport carriage thereby removing said interchangeable module and said transport carriage from a receiving bay of said basic module and replacing said interchangeable module and said transport carriage with another interchangeable module and transport carriage.

97. (New) A supply system in accordance with Claim 86, wherein said transport carriage is designed to receive at least two interchangeable modules which each has space on said rail means and aluminum wherein said transport carriage has wheels permitting alignment of said transport carriage with said basic module at two positions displaced by 180°.